

## **SOUTH AIKEN HIGH**

232 E. Pine Log Rd.  
Aiken, SC 29803

**GRADES** 9-12 High School

**ENROLLMENT** 1,469 Students

**PRINCIPAL** William C. Gassman 803-641-2600

**SUPERINTENDENT** Dr. Linda B. Eldridge 803-641-2428

**BOARD CHAIR** Dr. John B. Bradley 803-641-2431

## **THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD**

# 2003

#### **ABSOLUTE RATING:**

**EXCELLENT**

Absolute Ratings of High Schools with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
21	10	1	0	0

#### **IMPROVEMENT RATING:**

**EXCELLENT**

#### **ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:**

**N/A**

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL**

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WEBSITES AT:**

**[WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM](http://WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM)**

**[WWW.SCEOC.ORG](http://WWW.SCEOC.ORG)**

**PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD**

	<b>Absolute Rating</b>	<b>Improvement Rating</b>	<b>Adequate Yearly Progress</b>
<b>2001</b>	Excellent	Excellent	N/A
<b>2002</b>	Excellent	Good	N/A
<b>2003</b>	Excellent	Excellent	N/A
<b>2004</b>			

**TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM**

	<b>Our School</b>			<b>High Schools with Students Like Ours</b>		
<b>Percent</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Passed all 3 subtests</b>	79.8	80.7	81.4	76.0	74.9	74.2
<b>Passed 2 subtests</b>	10.8	11.7	9.5	13.7	14.9	15.1
<b>Passed 1 subtest</b>	6.3	4.3	3.8	6.8	6.6	6.8
<b>Passed no subtests</b>	3.0	3.3	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.4

**PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS**

	<b>Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2003</b>		<b>Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*</b>		<b>Graduation Rate</b>	
	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>All Students</b>	315	94.9	268	32.1	327	72.8
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	151	94.0	134	38.1	164	67.1
Female	164	95.7	134	26.9	163	78.5
<b>Race or Ethnic Group</b>						
African American	63	81.0	48	2.1	78	48.7
Hispanic	8	87.5	7	0.0	9	66.7
White	235	98.7	203	40.9	230	80.4
Other	1	I/S	10	20.0	10	90.0
<b>Disability Status</b>						
Non-speech disabilities	12	58.3	18	0.0	36	11.1
Students without disabilities	303	96.4	250	34.8	291	80.4
<b>Migrant Status</b>						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Non-migrant	1	I/S	268	32.5	0	N/A
<b>English Proficiency</b>						
Limited English proficient	2	I/S	0	N/A	2	I/S
Non-LEP	312	94.9	268	32.5	325	73.2
<b>Lunch Status</b>						
Subsidized meals	61	82.0	34	2.9	74	44.6
Full-pay meals	253	98.0	234	36.8	253	81.0

n = number of students on which percentage is calculated

**ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS**

<b>Percent of</b>	<b>Our School</b>	<b>High Schools with Students Like Ours</b>
<b>Seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions*</b>	32.1	21.4
<b>Seniors who met the SAT requirement</b>	32.5	22.4
<b>Seniors who met the grade point average</b>	57.8	58.4

\*Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
Students (n= 1,469)				
Retention rate	9.2%	Up from 9.1%	7.4%	7.3%
Attendance rate	94.7%	Down from 95.3%	95.7%	95.5%
Eligible for gifted and talented	17.1%	Up from 16.8%	10.2%	5.1%
With disabilities other than speech	10.3%	Down from 10.6%	10.8%	12.2%
Older than usual for grade	9.7%	Up from 9.3%	7.6%	10.1%
Suspended or expelled	0.2%	Down from 1.0%	2.3%	2.3%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	24.0%	N/A	N/A	10.2%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annual dropout rate	1.0%	Down from 2.1%	3.0%	2.7%
Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	5.1%	Up from 4.8%	2.2%	3.2%
Enrollment in career/technology center courses	740	Up from 705	611	433
Students participating in worked-based experiences	26.4%	Up from 23.3%	26.3%	26.3%
Career/technology students mastering core competencies	68.6%	Down from 70.5%	75.0%	74.9%
Career/technology completers placed	100.0%	No change	100.0%	99.5%

Teachers (n= 79)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	48.1%	Down from 50.0%	57.8%	51.7%
Continuing contract teachers	82.3%	Up from 71.3%	84.1%	81.8%
Highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teachers returning from previous year	87.2%	Up from 85.1%	87.5%	85.1%
Teacher attendance rate	95.7%	Down from 96.2%	95.7%	95.8%
Average teacher salary	\$41,518	Up 3.6%	\$41,138	\$40,303
Prof. development days/teacher	7.1 days	Up from 5.0 days	10.3 days	10.3 days

School				
Principal's years at school	8.0	Up from 7.0	3.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio	N/R	N/R	28.3 to 1	26.2 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.0%	Down from 90.4%	91.0%	90.1%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$5,270	Up 5.1%	\$5,693	\$6,279
Percent spent on teacher salaries*	62.4%	Up from 61.6%	59.2%	57.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Excellent	Excellent
Parents attending conferences	42.8%	Up from 21.5%	87.5%	87.8%
SACS accreditation	yes	N/A	yes	yes

\* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools	N/A	N/A
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools	N/A	N/A

Abbreviations for Missing Data							
N/A	Not Applicable	N/C	Not Collected	N/R	Not Reported	I/S	Insufficient Sample

**REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL**

South Aiken High School has an enrollment of about 1450 students each year. About 70% will pursue post-secondary education. Approximately 12% are special needs students, some of whom will also enter post-secondary education, and some of whom will enter the work force. About 15-20% of the student body will enter the military or workforce upon graduation from South Aiken.

The school offers a diverse curriculum. The major focus is on preparing students for college. This past year twelve Advanced Placement classes were offered. In the 2003-04 school year twelve AP classes will be offered. The school's composite SAT and Exit Exam scores exceed national, state, and/or district averages where appropriate. Advanced Placement test scores exceed national averages in established courses and are increasing in recently established courses.

Career education programs are offered in Business Education, Culinary Arts, Marketing and Distributive Education, and Broadcast Journalism. Students are also able to enroll in career education courses at Aiken High School or the Aiken County Career Center.

The school's band is consistently rated as "Superior" annually in state band competition. The school's literary magazine has been recognized as "Best in State" for the past two years. The yearbook and newspaper were recognized for journalistic success by the South Carolina Scholastic Press Association in the past school year. In addition, individual students of all three periodicals were recognized by the SCSPA. Annually South Aiken students are selected for the state's Young Writers Workshop. Six students were nominated for the Archibald Rutledge Scholarship in April, 2003. Over 110 seniors are still eligible for Life Scholarships.

In twenty-three years of existence the school has won fifteen state championships in athletics. Ten have come in the last eleven years. The NJROTC program has won national orienteering championships and has competed very successfully in academic competition.

The school has received grants and awards which have resulted in the purchase and installation of over 300 computers in the school. Other grants have supported the arts, peer mediation, and career education programs. The school's peer mediation/conflict resolution program is exemplary.

An athletic stadium was completed and opened for the 2000 season, and more bleacher seats have been added for the 2002-03 seasons. A press box has been built for the baseball field. The HVAC system was enlarged last summer. New seats will be installed in the auditorium this summer.

The school has been accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools since its first self-evaluation in 1983. The school annually receives the top rating of "All Clear" from the State Department of Education. In addition, the school holds the distinction of being "Deregulated" by the SDE.

**EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS**

	<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Parents</b>
<b>Number of surveys returned</b>	71	264	183
<b>Percent satisfied with learning environment</b>	81.7%	61.1%	73.6%
<b>Percent satisfied with social and physical environment</b>	79.7%	75.4%	58.0%
<b>Percent satisfied with home-school relations</b>	77.3%	76.9%	62.4%

**DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS**

- Excellent - School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal

**DEFINITION OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS**

As required by the United States Department of Education, adequate yearly progress specified that the statewide target is met for all students and for each subgroup of students: racial/ethnic, economic, disability, limited English proficiency and migrant status.